

Message Text

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43

ACTION OC-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CCO-00 SY-05 (ISO) W

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R 301155Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9098

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAR ES SALAAM 2760

DEPT FOR OC, NAIROBI FOR RCO FROM CRO

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: ACOM

SUBJECT: RADIO COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT DURING KIDNAPPING INCIDENT

1. KWM-2A AT KIGOMA (477-KILO) WAS REMOVED FROM OPERATION EARLY SATURDAY MORNING, JULY 26. IT AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT EQUIPMENT WERE RETURNED TO EMBASSY THE SAME EVENING BY CONSUL (ZANZIBAR) LEW MACFARLANE WHO WAS IN CHARGE AT KIGOMA. WILL POUCH ALL EQUIPMENT TO RCO THIS WEEK. CONTROLLED POUCH INFO TO FOLLOW BY SEPTTEL.

2. POST INFORMED FOREIGN OFFICE BY DIPLOMATIC NOTE THAT COMMUNICATIONS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT SENT TO KIGOMA IN CONNECTION WITH KIDNAPPING HAS BEEN DISMANTLED AND REMOVED.

3. IN VIEW OF FOLLOWING POINTS STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT CALL SIGNS FOR BUJUMBURA, DAR ES SALAAM, KINSHASA, NAIROBI, TANANARIVE AND ZANZIBAR BE CHANGED ASAP:

A. DURING THE PAST TWO MONTHS MANY MEMBERS OF EMBASSY STAFF HAVE USED THE KWM-2AS AT DAR AND KIGOMA WHO WERE NOT COMPLETELY FAMILIAR WITH RADIO SECURITY. THERE WERE INSTANCES WHEN, DURING THE COURSE OF CONVERSATIONS, CALL SIGNS WERE TIED WITH COUNTRIES AND/OR CAPITAL CITIES OF AFRICAN NETS.

B. OBVIOUSLY SECURITY AT KIGOMA WAS LIMITED. INITIAL
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LOCATION OF KWM-2A WAS IN AMERICAN'S RESIDENCE, WHO MEMBER OF

FAO, LOCATED NEAR MAIN ROAD. EQUIPMENT WAS OBSERVED BY MANY INDIVIDUALS AND CALL SIGNS CONCEIVABLY OVERHEARD BY LOCALS PASSING BY IN STREET. PASSERS-BY COULD HAVE BEEN ANYTHING FROM SIMPLE PEASANTS TO MEMBERS OF TANZANIAN SECURITY SERVICES OR ZAIRE CONSULATE.

C. ON JUNE 23 RADIO WAS MOVED TO FAO GUEST HOUSE BY CRO. THIS LOCATION FAR SUPERIOR TO PREVIOUS LOCATION AS IT HIGHEST POINT IN KIGOMA AND DID PROVIDE MUCH BETTER RECEPTION. AT THIS TIME SEVERAL AMERICANS WHO WERE NOT USG EMPLOYEES WERE ADDED TO KIGOMA TEAM (PARENTS OF STUDENTS, ETC.). THESE PEOPLE WERE OFTEN PRESENT WHEN RADIO BEING UTILIZED AND DURING COURSE OF EVENTS BECAME QUITE FAMILIAR WITH CALL SIGNS AND THEIR LOCATIONS.

D. RADIO LOCATION AT FAO GUEST HOUSE WAS IN ROOM DIRECTLY ACROSS FROM KITCHEN/MESS HALL (ABOUT 30 FEET AWAY) WHERE SEVERAL LOCALS WORKED THROUGHOUT THE DAY. MANY OTHER LOCAL AND EX-PATRIATE PERSONNEL IN KIGOMA OBSERVED RADIO OR WERE PRESENT NEAR ROOM DURING OPERATIONS. ROOM WAS IN MOTEL-LIKE STRUCTURE WITH JALOUSIE WINDOWS WHICH WERE USUALLY OPEN DUE TO TEMPERATURE.

4. ONCE AGAIN THE KWM-2A PLAYED AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT ROLE IN THIS AREA. TELEPHONE SERVICE IN AND OUT OF KIGOMA WAS, AT BEST, BAD. ALTHOUGH RECEPTION USUALLY DROPPED OFF IN EVENING HOURS DUE TO LOCAL PROPAGATION, SITUATION WOULD HAVE BEEN MOST DIFFICULT WITHOUT THE RADIO LINK. EMBASSY OFFICERS DEvised A DICTIONARY CODE WHICH PROVIDED A FAIRLY RELIABLE SECURE VOICE SYSTEM.

5. EMBASSY WISHES TO EXPRESS ITS THANKS TO RCO AND IN PARTICULAR CEO RON JOHNSTON FOR THE EXCELLENT SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE THROUGHOUT THE KIDNAPPING INCIDENT.
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From: DAR ES SALAAM
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ISecure: 1
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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